



Next Steps: The Call & Cost

Aim

To help people recognise where they may have stalled in their faith, understand both the call and cost of following Jesus, and take a clear, honest next step.

1. The Call of Jesus (Mark 1:14-20)

Read: Mark 1:14-20

Key insight:

Jesus' invitation is simple:

- Come = be with me
- Follow = go where I go

The disciples:

- Didn't understand everything
- Didn't wait until they felt ready
- Responded immediately

Discussion questions:

- What stands out to you about how the disciples responded?
- Why do you think they moved so quickly?
- What tends to stop us from responding like that?

Leader summary: We often wait to feel ready. The disciples moved first, and understanding followed.

2. The Cost of Following Jesus (Luke 9 & 14)

Read:

- Luke 9:18-22

- Luke 9:23-26
- Luke 14:25-33

Key truths:

- Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him
- He counted the cost first (His suffering)
- He expects us to count the cost too

Discussion questions:

- What do you think “deny yourself” looks like in real life?
- What might “taking up your cross daily” involve for you personally?
- Why does Jesus want people to count the cost upfront (Luke 14)?

Leader insight: This is not about discouraging people - it’s about forming committed, resilient disciples.

3. Why We Don’t Move: The Three Excuses (Luke 9:57-62)

Summarise or re-read Luke 9:57-62

Excuse 1 - Enthusiasm without thought

“I’ll follow you anywhere”

- Starts strong, but hasn’t counted the cost

Excuse 2 - Delay (“Let me first...”)

- Good things become barriers
- Timing becomes the issue

Excuse 3 - Divided heart

- Looking back
- Trying to follow without fully letting go

Discussion questions:

- Which of these excuses do you recognise most in yourself right now?

- What “good” things might be getting in the way of obedience?
- Where might you be looking back instead of moving forward?

Leader summary: These aren’t bad reasons - but they lead to the same outcome: no movement.

5. Personal Reflection: Where Am I Really?

Give space for quiet reflection, then invite sharing where appropriate.

Use these questions (you don’t need all five in discussion - let people engage personally first):

Reflection Questions

1. **If someone who knows you well were asked how your faith has changed in the last year, what would they say?**
 - Where is there growth?
 - Where have things stayed the same?
2. **What is one area where you know God has been nudging you, but you haven’t moved?**
 - What has held you back?
3. **When did you last do something in your faith that genuinely cost you something?**
 - What does that reveal?
4. **If someone followed your example for six months, where would they end up?**
 - What would they prioritise?
5. **What one step, if you were courageous enough, would make the biggest difference to your journey with Jesus?**
 - Make it specific
 - Make it measurable

Leader instruction:

After reflection, ask people to complete this sentence (option to share):

- "My next step is _____"
- "My excuse will probably be _____"

Then ask: What will help you act before that excuse takes hold?

6. Bringing It Together

Leader summary:

- Jesus says: *"Come, follow me"*
- He also says: *"Count the cost"*

These are not opposites.

- The disciples didn't wait to understand - they moved
- But following Jesus will cost something - always

Key truth:

- The question is not *"Will it cost?"*
 - The question is *"Is He worth it?"*
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Key Takeaway

- Following Jesus begins with a step.
- It continues with surrender.
- And it always costs something.
- But the invitation remains the same:
 - **Come. Follow me.**